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T.W.
(K.E.)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: James Leonard Smith DATE: February 19, 2003
SERIAL NO: 09/856,781 GROUP ART UNIT: 3635
FILED: 09/20/2001 EXAMINER: Basil S. Katcheves
FOR: "Load-Bearing Structures"
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A01105US (98486.2)

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GROUP 3600

RESPONSE AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner For Patents
Box RCE
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2002. There are presently thirty four claims pending in the case and all claims stand rejected. Applicant is submitting this response in order to put the claims in condition for allowance. A shortened statutory period was set to expire three months from the date of the Office Action, making a response due by December 19, 2002.

A petition for a two-month extension of time accompanies this response, extending the deadline for response to February 19, 2003.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 8, line 31, replace "W097/42019" with - - EP-A-0467842.- -

On page 9, line 9, replace "EP-A-0467842" with - - W097/42019.- -

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- - 1. (Twice Amended) A hollow load bearing structural element extruded from a